Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 1 **(Cancelled)**

2. **(Currently amended)** The hermetic compressor according to claim 1, wherein an area of the at least one under cut occupies not less than one half of an area of the outer circumferential surface of the piston.

3. **(Currently amended)** The hermetic compressor according to claim ~~1~~ 25, wherein an angle made by an edge of the at least one under cut and the outer circumferential surface of the piston is an acute angle.

4. **(Currently amended)** The hermetic compressor according to claim ~~1~~ 25, wherein the at least one under cut is formed continuously to a skirt surface of the piston.

5. **(Currently amended)** The hermetic compressor according to claim ~~1~~ 25, wherein the piston has a circumferentially formed land with a predetermined axial width extending axially from the top surface, and the circumferentially formed land is provided with an annular groove.

6. **(Currently amended)** The hermetic compressor according to claim ~~1~~ 25, wherein the piston has a taper in at least one of a boundary between the top surface and the outer circumferential surface and a boundary between the outer circumferential surface and a skirt surface of the piston.

7. **(Currently amended)** The hermetic compressor according to claim ~~1~~ 25, further comprising a motor element for rotating the crankshaft, the motor element being inverter-driven at plural operation frequencies including an operation frequency that is at least a power supply

frequency or less.

8. **(Currently amended)** The hermetic compressor according to claim ~~1~~ 25, wherein the refrigerant gas is R600a.

9. **(Currently amended)** A hermetic compressor comprising a housing which contains oil and houses a compression mechanism for compressing a refrigerant gas,

the compression mechanism comprising:

a crankshaft disposed in a vertical direction and having a main shaft and an eccentric shaft;

a cylinder;

a cylindrical piston arranged to reciprocate in the cylinder in a direction of a cylinder axis;

a connecting portion for connecting the piston to the eccentric shaft; and

a piston pin mounted to the piston and connecting the piston to the connecting portion, the piston pin having a pin center axis;

the piston comprising:

a skirt surface at a connecting portion side of the piston;

a top surface at a cylinder side of the piston; and

an outer circumferential surface parallel to the cylinder;

wherein a piston pin hole is formed diametrically through said piston;

wherein opposite ends of said piston pin hole open into piston recesses formed in said outer circumferential surface of said piston at diametrically opposite locations of said piston;

wherein said piston pin is accommodated in said piston pin hole;

wherein the outer circumferential surface includes a land that is on the same surface as the outer circumferential surface of the piston and at least one under cut that is recessed with respect to the outer circumferential surface;

wherein a pair of first lines are defined at the outer circumferential surface of the piston so as to be parallel to the piston axis and so as to intersect the center axis of the piston pin, the first lines being respectively defined at mutually diametrically opposite locations of the outer circumferential surface of the piston pin with respect to the piston axis;

wherein a pair of second lines are defined at the outer circumferential surface of the piston so as to be parallel to the piston axis and so as to be spaced 90° circumferentially from the first lines with respect to the piston axis, the second lines being respectively defined at mutually diametrically opposite locations of the outer circumferential surface of the piston with respect to the piston axis;

wherein the land comprises

a circumferential land portion formed circumferentially about the piston and extending axially from the top surface of the piston for a predetermined distance,

a first pair of axial land portions formed respectively along the second lines continuously from the circumferential land portion to the skirt surface, and

a second pair of axial land portions formed respectively along the first lines from the circumferential land portion to the skirt surface, the second pair of axial land portions being continuous along the first lines, respectively, from the circumferential land portion to the skirt surface except where interrupted by ~~a recess for accommodating the piston pin~~ said piston pin recesses formed in said outer circumferential surface of the piston at the diametrically opposite locations of the piston, such that said second pair of axial land portions each includes a land portion disposed on one of said first lines axially between said skirt surface and a respective one of said piston pin recesses.

Claims 10-13 **(Cancelled)**

14. **(Previously presented)** The hermetic compressor according to claim 9, wherein the at least one under cut is spaced axially below the top surface of the piston; and

the piston and the at least one under cut are arranged so that the at least one under cut communicates outwardly of the cylinder with a space inside the housing, at least when the piston is at the bottom dead center position.

15. **(Previously presented)** The hermetic compressor according to claim 9, wherein the at least one under cut comprises a plurality of under cuts, each formed in the outer circumferential surface of the piston at a location of the outer circumferential surface spaced circumferentially away from the first lines and the second lines; and

each of the under cuts is spaced axially below the top surface of the piston.

16. **(Previously presented)** The hermetic compressor according to claim 15, wherein the under cuts are equally circumferentially spaced about the piston.

17. **(Previously presented)** The hermetic compressor according to claim 9, wherein the at least one under cut comprises four under cuts, each formed in the outer circumferential surface of the piston at a location of the outer circumferential surface spaced circumferentially away from the first lines and the second lines; and

each of the under cuts is spaced axially below the top surface of the piston.

18. **(Previously presented)** The hermetic compressor according to claim 17, wherein the under cuts are equally circumferentially spaced about the piston.

19. **(Currently amended)** The hermetic compressor according to claim ~~1~~ 25, wherein the at least one under cut comprises a plurality of under cuts, each formed in the outer circumferential surface of the piston at a location of the outer circumferential surface spaced circumferentially away from the first lines and the second lines; and

each of the under cuts is spaced axially below the top surface of the piston.

20. **(Previously presented)** The hermetic compressor according to claim 19, wherein the under cuts are equally circumferentially spaced about the piston.

21. **(Currently amended)** The hermetic compressor according to claim ~~1~~ 25, wherein the at least one under cut comprises four under cuts, each formed in the outer circumferential surface of the piston at a location of the outer circumferential surface spaced circumferentially away from the first lines and the second lines; and

each of the under cuts is spaced axially below the top surface of the piston.

22. **(Previously presented)** The hermetic compressor according to claim 21, wherein the under cuts are equally circumferentially spaced about the piston.

23. **(New)** The hermetic compressor according to claim 9, wherein

said second pair of axial land portions are each formed so as to include at least one portion that extends axially continuously from said circumferential land portion to said skirt surface.

24. **(New)** The hermetic compressor according to claim 9, wherein

the at least one under cut comprises plural under cuts; and

each of said under cuts has a shape that, in a direction from said skirt surface toward said circumferential and portion, first widens circumferentially and then narrows circumferentially.

25. **(New)** The hermetic compressor according to claim 9, wherein

wherein the at least one under cut is formed in the outer circumferential surface of the piston at at least one location of the outer circumferential surface spaced circumferentially away from each of the first lines and each of the second lines; and

wherein the at least one under cut is separated from the top surface of the piston and, at

least when the piston is in a bottom dead center position, communicates with space inside the housing.

26. **(New)** The hermetic compressor according to claim 25, wherein

the at least one under cut comprises plural under cuts; and

each of said under cuts has a shape that, in a direction from said skirt surface toward said circumferential and portion, first widens circumferentially and then narrows circumferentially.